



9 July 2009

## SMILE launches Film Workshop Project on Refugee Week

The first film workshops launched in London on Friday 19 June as part of Refugee Week.

The film project aims to raise awareness of the needs of refugee children and promote our work. A professional film maker is facilitating a series of workshops across the three regions, where refugee children and young people will be taught how to devise, plan, create, edit and produce short films on subjects related to their experiences and the project's work.

The end product will be a series of short films collated onto a DVD, which we plan to screen in selected cinemas and distribute to promote the project.

The film workshops will run in Birmingham from Friday 14 August and in Leeds from 9 October. You can apply to be a volunteer for the project workshops in Birmingham and Leeds by contacting us at [smile@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:smile@refugeecouncil.org.uk)

### SMILE London Refugee Week events

SMILE London delivered talks during Refugee Week at: Hounslow Manor Secondary and St Marylebone secondary schools, Crown Lane primary school and Newham College.

We also hosted a big talk and 4 workshops at King's College to 150 secondary school children in the context of a UN model conference for Lambeth Council.

### Educational Grants for Young Asylum Seekers and Refugees

The Schwab and Westheimer Trusts provide educational funding in the form of grants to young asylum seekers and refugees where alternative sources of funding are inadequate. The Trusts invite applications at any point in the year including from those with unresolved immigration status.

Previous funding has included assistance with course fees, English tuition, computers, childcare, and transport. For further information and to submit an online application please see [the Trusts website](#).

### Crossworld Football Club

From 10 July to 25 September (and beyond) we'll be organising two football coaching sessions every Friday (for young and older children).

For more information please go to [our website](#) or contact Julian on: 020 7346 6734

### SMILE takes on the West Midlands

Since the last newsletter was published the SMILE project has now become active in the third region of the West Midlands. More than 20 volunteers have been recruited and six matches with young people have so far been made. We are continuing to recruit and train volunteers for mentoring, befriending and school talks.

The film project will visit Birmingham next and any interested volunteers or young people are welcome to [get in touch now](#) if they would like to get involved.

SMILE West Midlands has so far done school talks as part of Refugee Week, providing a workshop to SMILE's youngest audience so far - Year 3 pupils. We're also giving two school talks to 175 Year 9 pupils in a Telford School this week which we're really looking forward to. [Get in touch](#) if you know of a West Midlands school who may be interested in talks in the future!

### Yorkshire and Humberside SMILE visit Yorkshire Sculpture Park

A May trip to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park to see the [Shared Horizon photography exhibition](#) was an chance for volunteers and mentees to step out of the city and smell the country air.

Helen Moore, the Community Outreach worker and a SMILE mentor, had organised cameras for us all. We spent a happy few hours wandering around the park taking photos of ourselves, the sculptures and quite a few of some Canada Geese that were milling about. The cameras were a good ice breaker as some people hadn't met each other before.

The day was a great opportunity for volunteers to mix and for the mentees to know they are part of a larger project. More trips are planned for over the summer.

[Read more on the trip on the SMILE blog](#)

### Homework and Activities Club

## begins in Yorkshire and Humberside

A homework and activities club is starting at the Leeds office from the 13th July, running every Monday and over the school holiday. This has been set up as we have a large number of mentees who are still awaiting a college place and who are very keen to learn English. Young people who would like some help with their homework are also welcome. Homework club attendance is by referral only either from the Children's section or through SMILE.

For further information contact [Iona](#) at the Leeds Office. < /p>

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SMILE helps child refugees to enjoy and achieve in education through mentoring, befriending and school talks.

SMILE is a Refugee Council project, funded by the Department of Children, Families and Schools.

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[Read more on the SMILE blog](#)